

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(Currently Amended). A metal gasket, in particular a cylinder head gasket for internal combustion engines, comprising ~~consisting of~~ at least one functional layer [(4)] showing at least one through-opening [(2)], as well as at least one leveling layer [(5)] and/or cover layer [(8)] that covers the functional layer [(4)] at least partially; where the functional layer [(4)], in the pre-assembled state of the gasket [(1)], is formed as a flat piece of metal to which is assigned, at least in the area of the through-opening [(2)], at least one profiled body [(7, 9, 12)] through which in the assembled state of the gasket [(1)] through a deformation of the functional layer [(4)] at least one sealing area [(15)] with elastic effect can be created; wherein the profiled body [(7)] is formed by a stopper element and wherein the leveling layer [(5)] is placed in on a ~~the area of the~~ surface [(4')] of the functional layer [(4)] that is facing away from the stopper element [(7)].

2(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein the profiled body [(7, 9, 12)] comprises ~~consists of~~ incompressible material.

3(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to claim[s] 1 [[or 2]] wherein the profiled body comprises ~~(7, 9, 12) consists of~~ metal.

4(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to claim[s] 1 [[or 2]] wherein the profiled body ~~(7, 9, 12) consists of~~ comprises plastic.

5(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to ~~one of the~~ claim[s] 1 ~~through 4~~ wherein the stopper element [(7)] is formed by a separate ring element [(6)].

6(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to ~~one of the~~ claim[s] 1 ~~through 5~~, wherein the stopper element [(7)] is created through the flanging of a ring element [(6)].

7(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to ~~one of the~~ claim[s] 1 ~~through 6~~ wherein the stopper element [(7)] is placed between two functional layers[(4)] where

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at least one leveling layer [(5)] is placed on the surface [(4')] of the functional layer [(4)] facing away from the stopper element. [(7)].

8(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to ~~one of the claim~~[(s)] 1 ~~through 7~~ wherein the profiled body [(9, 12)] is located in at least one leveling layer [(5)] and/or cover layer [(8)] on the side of the functional layer where, in the assembled state of the gasket [(1)], a corresponding elastic sealing area [(15)] can be created in the functional layer (4) through the deformation of the functional layer [(4)].

9(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to ~~one of the claim~~[(s)] 1 ~~through 8~~ wherein the profiled body [(9, 12)] shows such a contour that in the corresponding functional layer [(4)] at least one half bead-like area can be created.

10(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to ~~one of the claim~~[(s)] 1 ~~through 9~~ wherein the profiled body [(9, 12)] shows such a contour that in the corresponding functional layer [(4)] at least one full bead-like area.

11(Currently Amended). A metal gasket, comprising in particular a cylinder head gasket for internal combustion engines, comprising ~~consisting of~~ at least one functional layer [(4)] showing at least one through-opening [(2)], as well as at least one leveling layer [(5)] and/or cover layer [(8)] that covers the functional layer [(4)] at least partially; where the functional layer [(4)], in the pre-assembled state of the gasket [(10)] is formed as a flat piece of metal to which is assigned, at least in the area of the through- opening [(20)], at least one profiled body [(7, 9, 12)], through which in the assembled state of the gasket [(1)] a deformation of the functional layer [(4)] at least one sealing area [(15)] with elastic effect can be created where at least one elevation ~~forming a profile (9, 12)~~ and at least one cutout [(10, 11)] associated with the elevation are provided in the leveling layers [(5)] and/or cover layers [(8)], located opposite each other; where the functional layer [(4)] that is placed in between, and that is initially flat, and that in the assembled state is, at least in this area, deformable while building an elastic sealing area [(15)] wherein the respective functional layer [(4)] and the plane of the stopper element [(7)] shows at least one leveling layer [(5)].

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12(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to ~~one of the claim~~[[s]] [[1 to]] 11
wherein the functional layer [[(4)]] ~~consists of~~ comprises spring steel.